

\$8 million of private money put into trails in this state since that time in 1991. The private people are really doing their part. There are lots and lots of communities out there that are interested in cost-sharing and in a little help to get trails started. And we've now gotten to the point, the Trails Development Committee, which met a whole number of times over the last year, has developed an incredibly exciting plan called the "Trails of Discovery". I sent around to each of you a booklet that described in detail all the "Trails of Discovery", and I'm sure that you've been through it in detail. In any event, it is important and there are now, almost in every community of the state, a plan that doesn't have to be followed but an exciting plan that ties together all of the historic locations in that area, with all of the interesting geographic and natural sites in an area, and they form circle trails, 13 different...15 different circle trails whereby you can bike along highways, or along trailways, sometimes along abandoned railways, and make a full circle. It develops little tourism plans actually for every part of the state where people can come and spend a day or two and bicycle around your particular area of the state. And so everything is moving very quickly now, and it's exactly the wrong time to cut back on the funding. Now is the time when the funding is needed. These circle tours, these "Trails of Discovery", they involve one up in the Ft. Robinson area, all around Crawford and Chadron State Park and in that area, there's one in Scottsbluff that includes the monument and comes on down the valley a ways to Bridgeport and back and around. There's another one in the Republican River area, two of them in the Republican River area, one to the east and one to the west; one around Lake McConaughy and that whole area, and several others, one involving the Sandhills, the one towards O'Neill and Neligh right now, of course, is getting a tremendously exciting beginning because that's the part of the Cowboy Trail that is in the process of being developed. And up by Valentine is another portion of the Cowboy Trail, which involves itself in a circle network or "Trail of Discovery", and then there are, of course, trails in southeast Nebraska, a number of them and around Lincoln and Omaha. So the private interests, the local interests are doing a big part in this effort, it's a recreational effort that deserves some support from the state, the Legislature recognized that in 1991, when they appropriated \$100,000 a year. The thing has been badly muffed and I guess I have to take a part of that blame. I should have noticed that there was no appropriation for that one two-year period. But in any event, I hope we can set things